GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
PLAN TO SAFEGUARD ENVIRONMENT
M. JAGANNATH;RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problems of environmental degradation in the country are assuming alarming proportions; and
(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for effective management of the environment protection in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STAEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (A) AND (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 317 FOR 14/8/2000 REGAF
PLAN TO SAFEGUARD ENVIRONMENT

(a) & (b) No, Sir. However, there are rising levels of pollution in some industrial pockets, mining areas, urban centers etc. The Government of India have taken the following steps for protection and improvement of the environment:

i) Formulated a Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution.
ii) National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development has been drawn up
iii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas
iv) Unleaded petrol is now made available throughout the country and sulphur contents in petrol and diesel has been reduced substantially.
v) Gross emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
vi) Air and water quality are being monitored through a network of monitoring stations throughout the country.
vii) Emission from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards.
viii) A scheme for setting up of common effluents treatment plants in different industrial areas and estates for treating effluents from clusters of small-scale industrial units has been taken up.

ix) The Ministry in order to enforce and monitor the implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification has constituted a National Coastal Zone Management Authority and other State level Coastal Zone Management Authorities.
x) In order to strengthen the institutional mechanism at the Central and State levels, the Government have delegated powers of section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the State Governments and Central Pollution Control Board.